

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 5, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; Christopher (Kip) Hall, Susan Marks,
Gerald Nielsen, E. Reilly Tierney.
STAFF: Kate Buch, Town Administrator.

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Spencer McIlmurray (no address given) asked for some insight on the donation of an auto for \$40,000 that is on the agenda for approval and forwarding to the RTM. First Selectman Stevenson replied that it is a gesture of thanks and appreciation for the project, and full funds will be presented to the RTM when aggregate amount is determined, as normal procedure. There was discussion as to why the donation is forwarded now rather than waiting. Mr. Tierney asked about the maintenance liability. First Selectman noted that maintenance will be covered by the At Home organization as it is the donation of the vehicle to the Town. She added that it is a generous donation and gesture that is being accepted now with further acknowledgement as additional funds are to follow.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

First Selectman Stevenson read her report as follows:

- Thank You to our Fireman, Police and Post 53 members who participated in the Darien Domestic Abuse Partnership “Walk a Mile In Her Shoes” event on Saturday. The monies raised will help victims of domestic abuse services provided by the Domestic Violence Crisis Center. A special thank you to event organizers Rita Bailey, Sandy Sarhatt and event Chairman Sargent Alison Hudyma.

- The Planning and Zoning Commission is encouraging the Board of Selectmen members and the public to follow along and give comments and feedback into the Town Plan of Conservation and Development update. You can find all the Town Plan Update information by going to the Town of Darien home page, scrolling to the bottom and clicking on the Town Plan Update link. Plan updates have been discussed by topic. If you have a particular interest in the strategies being discussed for the downtown and Noroton Heights, look for booklets 5b and 5c on the website.

- On 10/1, Ed Gentile and I met with representatives from DOT at the pedestrian walk over at Noroton Heights. We are discussing repairs to the bridge to make it water tight while we engage in discussions about a potential replacement in the future.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Buch reported the following:

- Clock Hill homes pre-applications are available on the Town website and at the Library and Senior Center. Applications are required to be postmarked between October 12 - October 19, 2015 and will be mailed to Imagineers.
- Interviews for Town Finance Director will be set up for next week.

First Selectman Stevenson thanked Ms. Buch for handling two jobs. Ms. Buch thanked Assistant Finance Director, Eileen McGrath for holding down the fort in the Finance Department.

New Business

Discuss and Take Action on Consideration of the Darien Police Association Successor Contract and Refer Same to the Board of Finance and Representative Town Meeting.

Mr. Lee Palmer, Human Resources Director reviewed the highlights of the contract as follows:

- Comparison of the wage rate for the retro year of the contract (2014-2015) is consistent with the statewide average for arbitration awards and negotiated settlements for that year (2.18% and 2.36% respectively).
- The three remaining years of the contract are consistent within the range of statewide negotiated settlements which have seen settlements topping out at 2.66%.
- Cost of the wage settlement for FY 14-15 and FY15-16 are well within the amount reserved in the budget for contract settlements, and this is mature bargaining unit with the majority of employees at the top step.
- An additional benefit is that it provides more flexibility with regard to staffing, and the "Ideal Squad" will be eliminated. A patrol shift can be supervised by one supervisor at the rank of Sergeant or Lieutenant. Hiring back to provide shift supervision will be performed per the "bucket list" with Sergeants and Lieutenants making up one list.

Mr. Tierney questioned the 'ideal squad' that created a budget headwind, and if there was an estimate of the budget savings. Mr. Palmer noted that it is hard to pinpoint the number but there is significant savings in overtime and increased flexibility in scheduling, and they will look at first year efficiencies with projecting the budget.

Ms. Buch add that there is not a huge savings in overtime about 10% as there are many other factors that cause overtime, with replacement for paid leave being the largest driver for budget impact.

Mr. Tierney asked about the actuarial assumptions with assets placed at market value and the impact on this plan. Ms. Buch noted that mortality rates had not been updated for quite sometime and this is a reset and smoothing of rates and the cost curb of further premium of growth on the plan.

**** MR. HALL MOVED THAT THE DARIEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY APPROVES THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF DARIEN AND THE DARIEN POLICE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING SWORN POLICE PERSONNEL WITH REFERRAL OF THE SAME TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE FOR A REPORT AND REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING, AS THE DARIEN LEGISLATIVE BODY FOR FINAL ACTION.**

**** MR. TIERNEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b) Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution Transferring Control of 35 Leroy Avenue to the Board of Education.

Mr. Nielsen noted that to be clear, certain rooms in the basement are not included in the transfer. First Selectman Stevenson referred to the schematic of the basement and noted that mechanical areas for operation are included in the definitions of the property transfer.

Dr. Brenner came forward and addressed questions from the Selectmen. Mr. Tierney asked about the Town's liability for the remaining items on the punch list as presented by Dave Campbell, specifically the baseboard heating that cannot be tested fully until activated during the winter. He added that it may be best to transfer control after the heating was completed.

There was discussion and Dr. Brenner indicated that the Town has committed to have items finished as part of the building renovations contract. First Selectman Stevenson clarified that it is the understanding of the agreement, that the completion of the heating is part of the project and any unforeseen costs will under the Board of Education capital budget.

First Selectman Stevenson then requested a correction to the last paragraph and read the resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF DARIEN AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY
AT 35 LEROY AVENUE TO THE CARE, CUSTODY AND CONTROL
TO THE DARIEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS, property located at 35 Leroy Avenue is owned by the Town of Darien: and
WHEREAS, Nineteen Thousand (19,000) square feet of said property is currently occupied by the Darien Board of Education; and
WHEREAS, this portion of the property is being and will continue to be dedicated by the Darien Board of Education for school purposes; and
WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town of Darien to transfer the care, custody and control of a portion of the property at 35 Leroy Avenue to the Darien Board of Education:
NOW THEREFORE BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen recommends to the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien to hereby transfer the care, custody and control of the nineteen thousand (19,000) square feet of the building known as 35 Leroy Avenue, currently occupied by the Darien Board of Education, together with the adjacent land and parking area to said Board for school purposes.**

- ** MS. MARKS MOVED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND REFER TO THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING FOR APPROVAL.**
- ** MR. NIELSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discuss and Take Action on a Darien becoming a Clean Energy Community

First Selectman Stevenson introduced members of the Recycling Advisory Group and representatives from EverSource who presented the Clean Energy Municipal Pledge and fielded questions from the Board. The point system was outlined on how grant funds are determined based on reductions in building energy consumption for municipal facilities.

First Selectman Stevenson noted the following:

- This is important to the Town as there are funds available as a result of energy efficiency measure on buildings that generate up to 20% reductions in costs of power.
- The Bright Idea Grant of \$10,000 has already been achieved for the Town along with the rebates and points that have been earned from current projects
- It is noted that this is non-binding and there is no down side to becoming a Clean Energy Community, with the only requirement to establish a Clean Energy Task Force.

**** MR. HALL MOVED THAT THE DARIEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY PLEDGES TO WORK TO REDUCE ITS MUNICIPAL BUILDING ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND TO STRIVE TO INCREASE ITS USE OF CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AS PART OF BECOMING A CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY.**

- ** MR. TIERNEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

It is noted that Chairman's prerogative was used to move the order of the agenda items to have the following item next.

Discuss and Take Action on a Darien amending the charge of the Recycling Center Advisory Committee to include serving as the Town of Darien's Clean Energy Community

First Selectman Stevenson noted the Recycling Advisory Committee has made great strides with the recycling center and with engaging community involvement and education efforts on recycling. She thanked the Committee for sharing their expertise and knowledge and to come back soon to the Board to report on what has been done with programs and recycling measures that brings savings to the Town.

First Selectman Stevenson referred to the supporting document on the original charge and noted that No. 9 is the addition to serve as the Town of Darien's Clean Energy Task Force:

**Continuation of and addendum to the original charge adopted on October 15, 2012,
modified on December 16, 2013 and December 15, 2014**

- 1. Continue and monitor a public education program emphasizing single stream recycling, identifying items that can be recycled but are not single stream, and tracking progress in increasing recycling volume.**
- 2. Continue to examine the business model of the transfer station as well as the impact of the single stream and permit fee changes that were implemented in 2013/2014.**
- 3. Continue to evaluate other recycling initiatives to increase general awareness and handling of other wastes.**
- 4. Plan and execute a public event around Earth Day to highlight recycling resources and initiatives.**
- 5. Work with the Middlesex Middle School to strengthen their transition to Single Stream Recycling.**
- 6. Facilitate coordination between DPW and the swap shop to continue the successful operation of the swap shop.**
- 7. Recommend actions to assist the Town in reducing the quantity of municipal solid waste disposed of at the transfer station and increase the quantity of recycled and repurposed materials in the Town of Darien.**
- 8. Look for opportunities to implement single stream recycling in local businesses.**
- 9. To serve as the Town of Darien's Clean Energy Task Force**

**** MR. HALL MOVED THAT THE DARIEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY ADOPTS THE AMENDED CHARGE OF THE RECYCLING CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE SERVING AS THE TOWN'S CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE.**

**** MR. TIERNEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discuss and Take Action to Accept the gift of a vehicle from Darien At Home and
Refer Same to the Representative Town Meeting

First Selectman Stevenson stated that this is a public thank you to the Darien Foundation for Technology and Community. She added that as noted during public comments, it is a generous donation and gesture that is being accepted now with further acknowledgement as additional gifted funds follow.

Mr. Tierney asked if there are any incremental costs, and First Selectman Stevenson noted that At Home will cover maintenance costs.

First Selectman Stevenson read the resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GIFT TO AT HOME IN
DARIEN AND THE TOWN OF DARIEN FOR \$40,000 FROM THE
DARIEN FOUNDATION FOR TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-33 of the Codified Ordinances of the Town of Darien, the Board of Selectmen is empowered on behalf of the Town of Darien to accept gifts provided that the gifts do not have a value in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) and
WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-33 of the Code of the Town of Darien, said gifts in excess of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) may be accepted with action by the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Darien; and
WHEREAS, the Darien Foundation for Technology and Community wishes to donate a new automobile to At Home in Darien; and
WHEREAS, At Home in Darien provides transportation for Darien senior citizens; and
WHEREAS, the vehicles used by At Home in Darien are registered to and insured by the Town of Darien; and
WHEREAS, the value of the donated vehicle has been determined to be \$40,000; and
WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen wishes to accept this gift to support the operations of At Home in Darien;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Darien hereby authorizes the acceptance of this gift and directs that this resolution be forwarded to the Representative Town Meeting for its consideration and approval.

**** MS. MARKS MOVED TO ACCEPT ABOVE RESOLUTION FOR THE GIFT OF
A VEHICLE FROM DARIEN AT HOME AND REFER SAME TO THE
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING.**

**** MR. NIELSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discuss Parking Rates for 2016

There was discussion of the projects in progress including the parking study, the Noroton Heights platform and pedestrian walkway, and other parking related projects on the horizon. First Selectman Stevenson outlined that it is her recommendation to hold the rates for now, and not to increase daily rates this year. She asked to wait for the study and to do a comparison of the nearby towns and municipalities, along with a permit rate for employees. There was further discussion on the low rates that exist in Darien and the many variables and factors for consideration that make comparisons difficult to analyze. It was noted that funds from parking permits satisfy operational costs, but further improvement projects could require a reserve fund to be established. Ms. Marks stated that we need more facts from the survey and improvements to the system should include enforcement personnel. It was noted that there need to be discussions with the DOT for planning of operational needs.

It was agreed by consensus of the Board to not have a rate increase at this time.

AGENDA REVIEW

First Selectman Stevenson noted that the outcome of the parking study should be on the next meeting for review on October 19. Second Street light vendor is on for discussion on November 2. It was noted that budget calendar is an item for a future agenda. Ms. Marks asked to have a report on technology for lighting installations and Leroy West parking, and review of the Town plan for Conservation and Development. First Selectman Stevenson noted that in relation to projects before Planning & Zoning, the Board is asked to read Booklets 5B & 5C.

Transfers - EMS Study

RESOLVED:

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:

From:			To:		
Acct. No.	Account	Amount	Acct. No.	Account	Amount
10704000-	BOF	\$30,125	10101011-	EMS Study and	\$30,125
86600	Contingency		82083	Plan	
TOTAL		\$30,125	TOTAL		\$30,125

- ** MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE BUDGET TRANSFER AS PRESENTED.**
- ** MR. TIERNEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Special Meeting of September 14, 2015

- ** MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF 09.14.15 AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MR. HALL SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Regular Meeting of September 14, 2015

Several spelling and grammatical corrections throughout are noted:

Page 1, paragraph 3 noting appears twice. Down should be Town, Peat Tree should be Pear, Weed Beech should be Weed Beach, This Board not These Board.

- ** MR. HALL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF 09.14.15 AS AMENDED WITH CORRECTIONS NOTED.**
- ** MR. TIERNEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Regular Meeting of September 21, 2015

- ** MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF 09.21.15 AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MR. NIELSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

October 6, 2015 Department Heads 8:30 am
October 13, 2015 Board of Education 7:30 pm
October 19, 2015 Board of Selectmen 7:00 pm
October 20, 2015 Board of Finance 7:30 pm
October 26, 2015 RTM 8:00 pm
October 27, 2015 Board of Education 7:30 pm

Adjournment

- ** MS. MARKS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- ** MR. NIELSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services